

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 13. 1711.

Misgrounded Reproach and Malice Founded upon Ignorance, ought never to move a wise Man, any farther than to Pity the Mistakes of the People that make use of them, or at most, to smile at the Folly: This Rule I endeavour to follow, when I find some People angry at the Review, because I Reprov'd some of our Whigs, for being willing to have the Publick Credit of the Nation run down.

But I smile at nothing so much in it, as that the *Guilty few*, would foolishly suggest, that I am running open Mouth'd at them all in General, as the Authors and

Causers of the Decay of our Credit — And away they run with the Notion upon the Poor Review, that he is turn'd about, become a High-Flyer, and is falling upon the Whigs — Why, Gentlemen, what do you think I am driven like the King of S——, to run to the D—— to get help to do the Work of God, to bring the *Mahometan* Tories upon the Nation to support the Christian Credit of Britain? — It would be much more Rational, for you to think I am turn'd *Turk* than *HighFlyer*, and to make me a *Mahometan* would not be half so Ridiculous, as to make me say 'the Whigs are running down Credit; when, on the con-

contrary, I am still satisfy'd if there were no Whigs at this Time, there would hardly have been any such Thing as Credit left among us.—

Nor does this Contradict what I have been saying already; I never said there were no mistaken Men among the Whigs, and to shew them their Mistakes, as it is a Duty upon every Man that speaks in Publick, so they ought to take it for Service done to them.— And if they do not, the Folly is theirs, not mine.

It is evident, where the Design of sinking our Credit began, and to what it tends: I am none of those that resolve every Thing I do not like, into Jacobitism and the Pretender; yet he must be blind, that does not see, the Original Design of breaking in upon the English Credit, began at St. Germains; 'tis a Jacobite Plot against the Queen's Interest, and is Calculated to bring us under a Necessity of making easier Terms of Peace with France, and opening a Door by our Divisions, to the Restorati-on of the Pretender.

This is the Reason, why the wiseſt and beſt of thoſe you call Whigs, tho' full of Reſentment at ſome Meaſures taken, yet will not abandon the Publick Credit, because they will not give us up to France; and I ſhall not fail to do them Juſtice in the Course of this Paper, tho' not at all for fear of Reſentment or Reproach of the Ignorant, who firſt are againſt the Credit itſelf, and ſecondly are Angrý that ſo much Truth is told them, as to let the World know it.— What would ſome Men have an Author do in this Caſe? If I press you to keep up the Credit, you ſay I am a Tory; if I ſhould exhort you to run it down, I ſhould be a Traytor.

If ſuch Peoples Eyes are to be open'd, the Conſequence of this Diſcourse will do it; if they are to remain Blind, I have no more to ſay, but that it ſhall not be my Fault—I ſhall therefore go on to let you ſee, that tho' the Support of Credit may in ſome degree affiſt to ſupport thoſe you are averse to; yet, That

1. The Ruin of our Credit is the View,

the Hope, and the meer Project of the Jacobite Party in this Nation, and in Concert with France, and of none but them and Mad Men.

2. That for this Reaſon, the Whigs in Britain, however diſgusted and diſblig'd, or made uneaſie; not only ought, but generally ſpeaking DO, & few excepted, agree, that 'tis their Duty and their Interēſt, as Britains, to uphold the Nation's Credit at this Time, tho' it may claſh with, and thwart their Interēſt as a Party.

I begin with the laſt of theſe, because the Circumſtances of Things call for it— As I have been plain before, in Reproving thoſe that A&I otherwise without fear, ſo I ſhall be plain now, without making my Court to any Body— If any think I wrong'd them before, and that there are no ſuſh Men, I hope they will ſhew the World a Proof of it, by their Zeal for the Publick Good, in affiſting the Credit, which our Enemies ſeek ſo ſubtilly to Over-throw.

I am now to do Juſtice to thoſe, who have been wiſer than to fall into this Jacobite Snare; I will endeavour to do it without Flattery; 'tis a Debt to Truth to make the Enquiry, and I think it may ſerve for a Convictiou to ſome People, who have pretended to Treat the Whigs in general, as Enemies to the Nation; and for this Reaſon I enter upon the Enquiry.

The State of the Question is, in ſhort, this.

Whether the Whigs of this Nation, generally ſpeaking, have not, in a meer ſeſe of Publick Danger, contrary to, and without conſidering their Party-Interēſt, work'd at the Pump, and affiſted to keep the Snip (the State) from ſinking, tho' all the Pilot-ing part has been taken out of their Hands, and committed to Men they have no kind-ness for.

2. Have

2. Havé these People been Treated suitably to — to disinterfected a Principle, and so Publick a Spirit ?

I begin with the first — — — Havé the Whigs in this Nation Sacrificed their Private Resentment to the Publick Safety ? Are there Men among them, who tho' their Friends are displac'd, their Party suppreſſ'd, their Interest broke, and ſuch Pilots are Steering, as they think, would run away with the Cargo, if not with the Ship, yet have, for the safety of the Ship, taken their turn at the Pump, when Leaky, hand'd the Sails when Stormy, and flood to the Guns when attack'd by Pyrates, in hopes at laſt, to bring the Ship of State into ſome Port of Safety, when their other Diſferences may more Peaſeably, and with leſs Danger be adjusted.

And now, as I have not fear'd offending the Whigs, by Reproving them openly, who have not come up to this truly Platōnick Spirit — — — So for Shame Tories, do Justice to ſo much diſinterested Gallantry of Principle, tho' it be in Whigs, tho' it be in Men you do not like — — — Are there among us Men, who tho' they hate your abject Slavish Principles, who tho' they abhor your Non-Refiſing Banter, That Cheat with which you have mock'd God and your King, who tho' they Scorn a Paſſive Subjecting the Laws to the Will and Lust of a Tyrant, and will Vigorously, and (we hope) ſuſceſſfully, always withſtand Arbitrary Power, by whatſoever Means it ſhall Meditate a return upon us, yet will not give up the Nation, tho' to pull down a High Flying Party, nor join with France againſt the High Flyers; that will rather help you, than let Popery prevail upon you, and affiſt you to their own Loss, than affiſt your Enemis to the General Ruin.

What will you call this ? Let us ſee a Name for it if you can — — — Rumage your ill Nature to load it with ſomething ſelfiſh, and tell them they do it for their own Interēſt, not for yours — — — Yet you muſt allow then at the ſame Time, that the Whigs ſee the General Interēſt better than you — — — That you, like Mad-Men or Children, are running upon Precipices, and they ſtretch out their Hands to help you; that you would give us blind-ly to France, and the Whigs are the only Men that ſave you.

I ſhall attempt, in Prosecution of this Argument, to prove the Matter of Fact, and reſiſt it if you can — — — That the Meaſures of the preſent prevailing Party, the Publick Interēſt, the general Safety, and the only ſupport of the Nation, is ſtill depending upon the generous Aſſiſtance and Concurrence of the Whigs, without whi h, neither could the Credit luſt, the Enemy be kept out, or the War carried on — — — And if this be done, either the High Flyers muſt have no Generofity — — — Or ſome new Step may yet be taken, to make Parties eaſier to one another.

And what will thoſe Gentlemen ſay to this, who Repréſent the Whigs as the Men that would bring in the Pretender ? Will they have Grace enough to bluſh ? Or will they have Ingenuity enough to acknowledge they Treat Men hardly, who notwithstanding their Rude Behaviour, do not with-hold their Hands from the Publick Burthen ; we muſt ſee in the Prosecution of this part, what ſuch People can have to ſay for themſelves.

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